

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

For one embodiment of the present invention, a protected storage device of a computer system includes a password stored therein. Instructions may be included on the computer system to authenticate the user. Once authenticated, the password may be transferred to a hard drive where it may be used to unlock the drive. Subsequent to unlocking the drive, an operating system may be loaded. For one embodiment of the present invention, the drive may be relocked by reducing the voltage supplied to the drive in accordance with a power management policy. The drive may be again unlocked by re-authenticating the user and transferring the password from protected storage to the drive.